

votes are extremely important, particularly as countries in the hemisphere choose a new Secretary General next May. We must work with our partners in the Caribbean to ensure that the next OAS Secretary General is committed to upholding the principles enshrined in the Inter-American Democratic Charter. Without a U.S. presence in these five countries, it is very difficult to conduct in-person diplomacy with our counterparts on a range of crucial international issues. These countries are also of profound interest and importance to the millions of Caribbean-American citizens in the United States.

Currently, in order to meet with local officials, the private sector or civil society, U.S. diplomats must fly in from Barbados (or Washington) on often expensive, infrequent flights, and stay overnight in often expensive island hotels. Close working relationships with key leaders cannot develop, because our diplomats are not there to establish them. And, our diplomacy is limited to phone calls, emails and faxes, even though we all know that the best interaction is carried out in person. In addition to our stymied diplomacy, U.S. citizens living in these countries do not have full consular services to assist in the event of emergencies.

This bill establishes new embassies in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines while using existing funding. I authored an amendment to create these embassies in 2011 which was approved unanimously by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. I look forward to working with the Obama Administration to get this legislation across the finish line this time.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY MIGHTY MACS 1972–1974 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the players and coaches of the Immaculata University Mighty Macs 1972–1974 Women's Basketball Teams on the occasion of their enshrinement into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Led by their young coach, Cathy Rush, the Mighty Macs won the first three women's college basketball championships in 1972, 1973, and 1974 and this performance is considered the birthplace of modern college women's basketball. Rush is a Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Inductee, Class of 2008. In addition to the national championships, the Mighty Macs were the first women's team, along with the University of Maryland, to appear on national TV; first women's team, along with Queen's College, to play at Madison Square Garden, and the first women's college team to play outside the United States (Australia in 1974). Their inspirational story was made into a feature-length theatrical movie called *The Mighty Macs* and released by Sony Pictures in 2011.

The Mighty Macs are: Janet Ruch Boltz '73 of Glen Mills, PA; Denise Conway Crawford

'74 of Havertown; Janet Young Eline '74 of Gettysburg, PA; Theresa Shank Grentz '74 of West Chester, PA; Nancy Johnston '76 (deceased); Barbara Deuble Kelly '77 of White Bear Lake, MN; Tina Krah of Indianapolis, IN; Patricia Mulhern Loughran '77 of Broomall, PA; Judy Marra Martelli '75 of Media, PA; Maureen Mooney '73 (deceased); Sue Forsyth O'Grady '72 of Drexel Hill, PA; Patricia Opila Penater '72 (deceased); Rene Muth Portland '75 of Bloomington, IN; Betty Ann Hoffman Quinn '73 of Ardmore, PA; Cathy Rush (coach) of Sarasota, FL; Mary Scharff '77 of Audubon, NJ; Marianne Crawford Stanley '76 of Raleigh, NC; Maureen Stuhlman of South Lake Tahoe, CA; and Marie Liguori Williams '77 of Hollywood, FL.

Mr. Speaker, in light of their outstanding accomplishments, history-making seasons, and enshrinement in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the players and coaches of the Immaculata University Mighty Macs 1972–1974 Women's Basketball Teams.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,741,170,643,844.86. We've added \$7,114,293,594,931.78 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF NASA AMES RESEARCH CENTER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the scientists, engineers and staff of the NASA Ames Research Center for their legacy of contributions to our nation. For three quarters of a century NASA Ames has been a center of research, innovation, creativity and discovery.

NASA Ames was established on December 20, 1939, in Sunnyvale and Mountain View, California, and is now part of the 18th Congressional District of California which I'm privileged to represent.

Aeronautical researchers at NASA Ames constructed the world's greatest series of wind tunnels, improved the aircraft that led America to victory in World War II, and helped design supersonic jet aircraft.

Spacecraft engineers at NASA Ames played a major role in the exploration of space and continue to study human-machine interaction, fundamental space biology and biotechnology.

Information technologists at NASA Ames opened the fields of supercomputing, helped

lay the foundations of the commercial internet and network security, and serve as a conduit for the sharing of ideas between government and the firms of Silicon Valley. The planetary scientists of NASA Ames have inspired a sense of awe at the vastness, beauty and complexity of the universe through robotic missions to explore our solar system.

The earth scientists of NASA Ames helped bring better understanding to the environmental dynamics of our planet, and collaborated with scientists to develop new tools to fight fires, address the challenges of climate change, and make us better stewards of our ecosystems.

The educators of NASA Ames have inspired successive generations of young people to engage in careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The government entrepreneurs of NASA Ames have done better science for less expense. NASA Ames builds, manages, and operates some of the most spectacular spacecraft that explore our solar system, as well as other solar systems, and it is a powerful and reliable source of employment and innovation with a highly skilled and motivated workforce.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in saluting the extraordinary contributions made by NASA Ames Research Center over the past 75 years to the history, economy, ecology and knowledge of our nation.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR AJ KUEN

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major AJ Kuen, of the United States Army, for his extraordinary service to our nation. He served both Congress and the Army during his time on Capitol Hill with the Army's House liaison division. Major Kuen was recently assigned to continue his excellent work in the Army's chief of legislative liaison office at the Pentagon.

A native of Montville, New Jersey, Major Kuen graduated from the United States Military Academy with a Bachelor's Degree in Systems Engineering before reporting to the Army's prestigious aviation school. He excelled as a young lieutenant and completed the challenging qualifications for both the Kiowa and Blackhawk helicopters.

Major Kuen reported to his first duty assignment in Fort Polk, Louisiana to serve as a Blackhawk platoon leader for the Joint Readiness Training Center. His skills as both a leader and aviator were on full display while he trained units to conduct dangerous aviation missions in Afghanistan.

Major Kuen continued his great work during later assignments. He served with the 1st Cavalry Division in Fort Hood, TX where he ensured that the Lone Star State received immediate emergency air support from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade during Hurricane Ike. Shortly thereafter, Major Kuen deployed to Iraq as the Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander for the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade.

Major Kuen's exceptional performances as an Army officer allowed him to compete for